Price control on leading formulations

1621. DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kelkar Committee made observation in the supplementary report that 93 per cent of the turn over of leading formulations as per DRG is under price control;

(b) what are the details of decontrolled formulations on the D.R.G. according to Kelkar Committee, what is their sales turn over and what percentage do they account for;

(c) whether his Ministry has examined these observations; and

(d) if so, what are the details of distoration and action taken?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALRAO): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) According to the Kelkar Committee the percentage of total out-put of formulations out side price control is 28.8 per cent in the case of Indian Private Sector, 27.8 per cent in the case of Public Sector and 25.4 per cent in the case of foreign based companies.

Telephone facilities in villages

1622. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of Communications stated in 1987 that Government had no plan to provide telephone facilities in every village of the country;

(b) if no, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the number and names of villages State-wise where telephone facilties have not been provided so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The present policy of the department is to provide telecom facility on fully subsidised basis within about 5 Kms. in every inhabited place. For this purpose the country has been divided into hexagons of 5 Kms sides each and a principal village preferably a Panchayat Headquarter in it is earmarked for providing telecom, facility. There are 50421 such hexagons in the country out of which about 31,000 have been provided with telecom, facility as on 31.3.1989 and the balance are to be provided with the facility progressively during the remaining period of Seventh and Eighth Plan. Now we have a perspective plan for providing telephone in every village by 2000 A.D.

(c) This record is not maintained by the Department.

Prices of Betamethasone

1623. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to answer to Unstarred Question 649 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th February, 1989 and state:

(a) who were the members of Committee which heard the representation of Glaxo;

(b) what is the period which forms the basis for fixation of prices fixed on 2nd January, 1989; and

(c) when was the prices initially fixed under DPCO, 1979 for Beta-

methasone and its salts and when the report of BICP was received by his Ministry based on which prices have been fixed on 2nd January, 1989?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALRAO): (a) and (b) The following are the members of the Committee which heard the company:

(1)	Shri M.S. Murthy	Adviser (Chemicals), Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals.
(2)	Shri C. Radhakrishnamurthy	Jt. Director (Cost), Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices.
(3)	Shri R.N. Tandon	Joint Director (Chemicals), Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals

The recommendations of the Committee have been accepted by the Government and the revised prices were notified on 22nd January, 1989.

(c) The following are the prices fixed under DPCO, 1979 in respect of Betamethasone bulk drug and the salts:

	Rs./Gm.
1. Betamethasone Alcohol	113.34
2. Betamethasone 17-Valerate	105.85
3. Betamethasone Di-Sodium Phosphate	126.23

The prices fixed on 2nd January, 1989 are as per the recommendation of the Committee and not the BICP.

Problems of switching equipments

1624. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Telecommunications is facing the problem of switching equipments;

(b) whether the electronic switching system factory established at Mankapur has achieved the target of five lakh lines per year;

(c) what are the reasons for which the second electronic switching system factory could not be set up in Bangalore as decided by Government;

(d) what steps Government propose to take to meet the situation;

(e) whether it is also a fact that nearly two rural automatic exchanges were becoming faulty once a month because of cards becoming faulty; and

(f) what steps are proposed to be taken to improve the working of these rural exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. As per schedule, the factory is to reach the target of five lakh lines per year during 1989-90 only.

(c) The second electronic switching factory was required for the seventh Five Year Plan of Rs. 13000 crores, but the plan was approved only for Rs. 4010 crores. In order to meet the requirement of equipment for this plan, the existing factories were found to be adequate.

(d) The indigenously developed switching system technology is under field trial. All efforts are being made to productionise the C-DOT technology by the end of 1989-90.